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UNCLAS PARIS 06772

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, EAID
SUBJECT: REMARKS OF FRENCH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND ON THE
CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE

1. AFTERNOON OF FEB 25, AT JOINT PRESS-CONFERENCE OF
FRENCH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND AND GERMAN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT,
MITTERRAND COMMENTED ON THE CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE
OUTLINED IN PRESIDENT REAGAN'S SPEECH. APPARENTLY
SCHMIDT DID NOT SPEAK ON THIS SUBJECT. WE HOPE TO HAVE
A TEXT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE FEB 26.

2. AFP HAS THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION OF MITTERRAND'S
REMARKS:
"ON THE MILITARY ASPECT, PRESIDENT REAGAN AND I HAVE
ANALYTICAL DIFFERENCES . . . THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL
AMERICA CAN LEGITIMATELY WORRY AMERICA, BUT ONE SHOULD NOT
GO IN THE WRONG DIRECTION", DECLARED PRESIDENT MITTERRAND.
THE CHIEF OF STATE ADDED, ON THE PLAN FOR AID TO THE REGION
SPONSORED BY THE UNITED STATES, THAT "THIS INITIATIVE IS

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NOT EXACTLY WHAT FRANCE WOULD HAVE DONE, BUT IT GOES IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION."

3. A.P. TICKER CARRIES THE FOLLOWING: COMMENTING ON U.S. POLICY IN CENTRAL AMERICA, MITTERRAND SAID HE AND PRESIDENT REAGAN DIFFERED IN THEIR ANALYSIS OF THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE REGION.

MITTERRAND, HOWEVER, SAID HE GENERALLY APPROVED OF REAGAN'S CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE, WHICH WAS UNVEILED WEDNESDAY AND CALLS FOR INCREASED U.S. FINANCIAL AID TO CENTRAL AMERICA AND DUTY-FREE ACCESS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR VIRTUALLY ALL THE REGION'S EXPORTS.

THIS INITIATIVE IS NOT EXACTLY WHAT FRANCE WOULD HAVE DONE, BUT IT IS GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, MITTERRAND SAID.

END OF MESSAGE

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